

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A hand pattern switch device, ~~which has comprising:~~

image pickup means for picking up an image of a hand that is within a predetermined image pickup zone and ~~in which recognizing a hand pattern is recognized therefrom and for detecting a hand motion is detected from the picked-up image to obtain operation information for a controlled objects, comprising:~~

controlled object-setting selecting means for selecting one of the controlled objects in accordance with at least one of the recognized hand pattern ~~and/or the detected~~ or a hand motion; and

detection mode-changing selecting means for ~~changing a mode of detection of the operation information based on the hand motion in dependence on which controlled object is selected~~ selecting one of a plurality of prescribed detecting modes as a mode of detecting the operation information based on the hand motion in dependence with the controlled object selected by the controlled object selecting means; and

instructed-operation recognizing section for controlling the controlled object selected by the controlled object selecting means based on the operation information detected with the detecting mode selected by the detection mode selecting means,

wherein said plurality of prescribed detecting modes include:

a moved distance detecting mode for detecting a moved distance of the hand in the image pickup zone, and

a stop time detecting mode for detecting a stop time of the hand at a stop position, to which the hand has been moved by a predetermined distance or more in the image pickup zone.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The hand pattern switch device according to claim 1, wherein said controlled object-setting selecting means cyclically selects one of the controlled objects each time a predetermined hand motion pattern is detected.

3. (*Canceled*)

4. (*Currently Amended*) The hand pattern switch device according to claim [[3]], 1, wherein the moved distance detecting mode is a mode in which the moved distance of the hand is detected in multi-stage fashion using a predetermined moved distance as a unit of detection.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A-vehicular ~~The~~ hand pattern switch device, ~~which has image pickup means for picking up an image of a hand that is within a predetermined image pickup zone and in which a hand pattern is recognized from and a hand motion is detected from the picked-up image to obtain operation information for a controlled object, comprising: according to claim 1, wherein the image pickup zone being at a location which is located laterally to a steering wheel of a vehicle and to which to enable an arm of a driver who steers steering the steering wheel-ean to extend a driver's arm without changing a driving posture of the driver.~~

6. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The-vehicular~~ hand pattern switch device according to claim 5, wherein the image pickup zone is at least 50 mm apart from an outer periphery of the steering wheel, the image pickup zone being a rectangle in shape and having a size of about 600 mm in a fingertip direction and about 350 mm in a width direction of the driver's hand which is extended.

7. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The-vehicular~~ hand pattern switch device according to claim 5, wherein the detection of the hand motion in the image pickup zone includes detecting a 10 mm to 70 mm displacement of a centroid position of the hand, determined from the picked-up image, as at least one of a controlled object selection-and/or or an amount of operation of a the controlled object concerned.

8. (*Currently Amended*) A-vehicular hand pattern switch device, ~~which has image pickup means for picking up an image of a hand that is within a predetermined image pickup zone and in which a hand pattern is recognized from and a hand motion is detected from the picked-up image to obtain operation information for a controlled object, comprising: according to claim 1, wherein the image pickup means being is disposed at a location at which the image pickup means can for picking up an image of a zone to which an arm of a driver who steers steering a steering wheel of a vehicle can extends a driver's arm without changing a driving posture of the driver.~~

9. (*Currently Amended*) The vehicular hand pattern switch device according to claim 8, wherein said image pickup means is disposed at a ceiling of the vehicle.

10. (*Currently Amended*) A hand pattern switch device, ~~which has image pickup means for picking up an image of a hand that is within a predetermined image pickup zone and in which a hand pattern is recognized from and a hand motion is detected from the picked-up image to obtain operation information for a controlled object, comprising: according to claim 1, wherein:~~
said controlled object selecting means for cyclically selecting selects one of the
 controlled objects when a predetermined hand motion pattern is repeated[:]; and
said instructed-operation recognizing section includes operation amount changing
 means for changing an amount of operation of the selected controlled object in accordance with the predetermined hand motion pattern.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The hand pattern switch device according to claim 10, ~~wherein said hand pattern switch device includes~~ further including:
 operation start recognizing means for recognizing that an operation of said hand pattern switch device is started ~~when it is determined that the recognized hand pattern corresponds to a predetermined first hand pattern, and~~
wherein said controlled object selecting means selects a controlled object among the controlled objects in accordance with a motion of the hand ~~whose~~ when a recognized hand pattern corresponds to a predetermined second hand pattern, after recognizing said operation start recognizing means recognizes that the operation of said hand pattern switch device is started.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The hand pattern switch device according to claim 11, wherein said operation start recognizing means includes confirming means for confirming that the hand of the predetermined first hand pattern does not grasp or touch a particular thing object and then-determining said operation start recognizing means determines that the operation of said hand pattern switch device is started after confirming that the hand of the predetermined first hand pattern does not grasp or touch the particular object.

13. (*Currently Amended*) The hand pattern switch device according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined first hand pattern corresponds to one that is formed when the hand grasps a-

thing an object, and the predetermined second hand pattern corresponds to one that is formed when the hand indicates a thing points an object with its finger.

14. (*Currently Amended*) The hand pattern switch device according to claim 11, ~~wherein said device includes start~~ further including promoting means for promoting start of the operation amount changing means when the recognized hand pattern corresponds to a predetermined third hand pattern and a detected position of the hand in the image pickup zone is not displaced for a predetermined time after the controlled object is selected.